



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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Memorandum

Date: June 12, 2024
To: Urban Subcommittee
From: Mark Lindemann, District Engineer
Subject: Urban Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – June 2024

The Urban Subcommittee met on Wednesday, June 12, at the NRD Office, at 12:00 pm. Subcommittee members participating included John Yoakum- committee chair, Gary Aldridge, and Luke Peterson. Others participating included NRD staff Mike Sousek, David Potter, Al Langdale, Drew Ratkovec, Craig Matulka and Mark Lindemann. Tim Zach from the City of Lincoln and Mike Sotak, with Houston Engineering, Inc. were also in attendance. Director Yoakum called the meeting to order at 12:02pm. Staff presented updates related to activities of the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project and on current and completed construction projects.

Update on Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project [NO ACTION] – Lindemann thanked directors for coming at the noon hour and began to go over the status of the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project. He reviewed the substantial cost increase for the project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and that the NRD and City of Lincoln have been weighing their options for the Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project for an alternative lower cost project. Additionally, the schedule continues to slide, causing concerns on impacts to other ongoing projects in the area. The NRD and City retained Houston Engineering to perform a value engineering study, which provided cost estimates ranging from \$21M to \$29M, with the same or improved flood reduction benefits of the original USACE project. The NRD and City have asked Houston Engineering to provide a proposal for engineering services to perform site investigation, design, permitting, development of plans and specifications, bidding assistance, construction administration and observation services. A draft of Houston’s proposal was emailed to Directors on June 11th, and copies were provided at subcommittee. Mike Sotak, with Houston provided an explanation of the scope of work for the contract. The NRD, NRD legal counsel, and City of Lincoln will continue to review the proposal and provide feedback. Houston will continue to refine details of the scope based on feedback from the NRD and City. The NRD and City has also been communicating potential project changes with UNL via verbal communication and meetings and will be coordinating in tandem with Houston’s proposal refinement to develop a new or amended agreement between UNL and the NRD. Staff noted to Directors that if a final decision is made to design and construct a project locally only, the NRD will request to terminate its Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the USACE. Upon PPA termination, the books will be balanced between the USACE and NRD to determine if funds are owed to either party. Questions were asked on the commonality of PPA terminations, with responses from staff and Houston that there are occasions where termination occurs due to project costs escalation. Yoakum also noted the importance of public

engagement and outreach. Sousek and Zach explained that the NRD will develop a plan with the City of Lincoln to have a joint communication plan with consistent messaging, and also coordinate with other City projects in the area. Zach also noted that their consultant, WSP, will assist with supporting public engagement opportunities.

Construction Project Reports- Photos and videos were of active and completed projects during subcommittee.

N. 27th Maintenance Facility- Lindemann explained that concrete footings, floor, roof and wall installation has been completed for the new maintenance building on north 27th Street. The Astro building construction started the last week of May. Staff is getting estimates for rehabbing the existing well and associated plumbing, a septic field, and electrical.

Beal Slough at 40th and Nebraska Parkway – This bank repair project constructed by Yost Excavating was completed in mid-April, three weeks before the deadline.

Lynn Creek at North 9th Street – Ratkovec explained that this stream bank repair watershed master plan project near the District office was completed in late April. This project utilized live-stake plantings and buried riprap.

South Salt Creek Master Plan #6 – This stream bank repair watershed master plan project in Wilderness Park was completed in late March. This project also had live stake plantings and riprap protection.

Deadmans Run 66th to Vine Streets- This bank stabilization project with improvement to three culvert outlets was completed the last week of May. FHU, the consultant engineer was able to record video of the project during a heavy rain event. The project held up well as designed.

Wedgewood Manor Lake CAP – Matulka noted that this project is complete and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has signed the Construction Certification of Dams.

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 pm.

cc: Dave Landis
Corey Wasserburger